A recent detailed and impartial review of the biographies included in the *Encyclopaedia Britanmca*[1] emphasises the point. Among the statesmen of first importance who are accorded entries in that work, fifteen only are of Jewish origin. Of these, nine are reformers (including some revolutionaries) while six may be classed as conservative. This conclusion is all the more remarkable if one bears in mind the fact that this particular survey excluded the United States and England, in which the conservative element is noticeably greater.

For it is perhaps only in these and one or two other politically advanced countries that the Jewish political genius has been able to find its natural level and direction. Where the Jew has been oppressed, deprived of economic opportunity, and excluded from public life, it was inevitable for him to throw his weight on the side of those parties which were endeavouring to effect a modification in the existing regime. Hence the activity of Jews in all the national movements of the nineteenth century, in which they imagined that their salvation lay. Hence the fact that in pre-war Russia, Jews were active in all the parties of the Left; though less by far among the Bolsheviks than among the moderates, the Constitutional Democrats and Mensheviks. Similarly, in countries where the clerical movement is strong, Jews have inevitably thrown themselves into opposition to those parties the policies of which must necessarily, though not

perhaps intentionally, add to the difficulties of the Jewish position.

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The political movements with which the Jews have been associated out of proportion to their numbers

[1] "The Distribution of European Genius" in *The Nineteenth Century* July 1936.